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**STATEMENT FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING GOVERNOR JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENT ON “SAVING OUR CARE”**

**CHARLESTON, WV** – Jim Kaufman, President and CEO of the West Virginia Hospital Association, released the following statement regarding the Governor’s new “Saving Our Care” program.

“On behalf of the hospitals in West Virginia and the 49,000 employees who have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic, we applaud the actions taken today by Governor Justice and the COVID-19 pandemic leadership team to create a task force to provide much needed support to hospitals and long-term care facilities.

This decision will help our hospitals manage the financial challenges of responding to the pandemic, including the escalating expenses and critical staffing needs they are currently experiencing. Ultimately, funding will help support our health care workers who have been on the frontlines of care for more than 19-months and help maintain the long-term stability of our health care system to care for all patients.

COVID-19 continues to test the capacity of West Virginia hospitals, but we stand ready to serve our communities in the face of this pandemic. We are thankful to the Governor and our state’s leadership for recognizing the essential role of West Virginia hospitals and long-term care facilities as we continue to care for all West Virginians.”

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**About WVHA:** The West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) is a not-for-profit statewide organization representing 64 hospitals and health systems across the continuum of care. The WVHA was founded in 1925 to serve as the collective voice of the state’s hospital community. Today, the mission of the WVHA is to support its members in achieving a strong, healthy West Virginia. Members of the Association envision a strong healthcare system that supports optimizing the health status of West Virginians served by hospitals and improving the economic condition of the state. Connect with WVHA through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).